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Toshiyasu Yabe

9683/221(PCT-3188US)

4783

7590

10/26/2007

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EXAMINER

PATEL, ASHOKKUMAR B

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2154

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

10/26/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/519,199

Applicant(s)

YABE ET AL.

Examiner

Ashok B. Patel

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply.

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 August 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-11 are subject to examination.
2. Applicant's arguments with respect to reference have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being Unpatentable over Lee et al. (hereinafter Lee)(US 6, 661, 877 B1) in view of Beyda et al. (hereinafter Beyda)(US 6, 505, 237 B2)

Referring to claim 1,

Lee teaches an e-mail processing method (Fig. 1) comprising:

sending, from a mail server for performing a mail delivery process (col. 4, line 8-10, "Internally, the infrastructure required to support each of these heterogeneous devices is brokered by the unified messaging server 11.") to mail clients (col. 4, line 10-14, "For example, message access using the computer system 14 is provided by implementations of the simple mail transfer protocol (SMTP), standard mail protocol servers (IMAP4 and POP3), and browser-based thin clients (HTML and WML)."), mail attribute information indicating an attribute of an e-mail for said mail client (Fig. 7, elements 106, 107, 108, 109 and 110, col. 7, line 56-58, "A set of messages 111 is

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stored into a Unified Inbox 105 organized by type 106, sender 107, subject 108, date 109, and size 110.") in a data format (col. 7, line 32-36, "The browser based thin clients submodule 88 includes two service interface adapters, Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) 93 and Wireless Markup Language (WML) 94, for respectively generating content and a user interface for Web pages and WAP-enabled devices."), the data format enabling said mail client to display said mail attribute information by executing a document browsing program(col. 7, line 32-36, "The browser based thin clients submodule 88 includes two service interface adapters, Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) 93 and Wireless Markup Language (WML) 94, for respectively generating content and a user interface for Web pages and WAP-enabled devices.");

receiving, in said mail client, mail attribute information transmitted from said mail server, and displaying the received mail attribute information in accordance with said document browsing program (col. 7, line 47-55, "FIG. 7 is a screen shot of a Web page 100 showing, by way of example, the graphical user interface 101 used in the system 11 of FIG. 2. In the described embodiment, the graphical user interface 101 is generated as a HTML Web page for viewing on a browser application 40 (shown in FIG. 2). The graphical user interface 101 provides controls 102 for displaying and navigating through computer telephony messages 103 stored in the unified message store 12 (shown in FIG. 1).");

accepting, in said mail client, an operation to select an e-mail selected by a user from among e-mails corresponding to said displayed mail attribute information (col. 8, line 10-17, "The graphical user interface 101 is generated by the unified messaging

server 11 (shown in FIG. 2) as a Web page for presentation through a browser application 40. An end user on a client 35 or remote client 38 can display and navigate through a Unified Inbox 105 via the graphical user interface 101 and requests to access the computer telephony messages 103 are processed by the unified messaging server 11.");

sending from said mail client to said mail server, identification information for identifying an e-mail selected by said user (col. 8, line 22-28, "During the processing of each request (block 125), the actual message formats used for each particular type of message, that is, email, voicemail, wireless and so forth, are transparent to the Unified Inbox 105 and access is provided by the encapsulated methods described above with reference to FIGS. 6A-6C. The routine terminates after all requests have been processed.");

receiving in said mail server, identification information transmitted from said mail client(col. 8, line 22-28, "During the processing of each request (block 125), the actual message formats used for each particular type of message, that is, email, voicemail, wireless and so forth, are transparent to the Unified Inbox 105 and access is provided by the encapsulated methods described above with reference to FIGS. 6A-6C. The routine terminates after all requests have been processed."),

Lee fails to teach sending to said mail client, predetermined character strings for instructing said mail client to process data transmitted from the mail server to said mail client in accordance with an e-mail processing program, prior to or along with sending an e-mail specified by the identification information when receiving predetermined

character strings transmitted from predetermined character strings, storing, in accordance with an e-mail processing program by said mail client in a nonvolatile memory, an e-mail transmitted from said mail server.

Beyda teaches at col. 7, line 49, If step 64 is satisfied, the next step in the process is step 66, which utilizes a list of subject matter instead of file formats or senders. At step 66, the criterion is based on the subject matter of the email message. For example, if "X project" is selected by the receiving party, the attachment filter 42 may be configured to prevent auto-downloading of attached files of email messages that are not marked as "X project" subject matter. In this configuration, if the email message is not "X project" subject matter, the process proceeds to step 60. However, if the subject matter is "X project," the email message is transmitted to the client device from the local router/server 12 with the attached file. Identical to steps 62 and 64, the list of subject matter may be reversely implemented, such that only attached files of email messages having a subject matter not contained on the list are auto-download to the client device." Note: Attachment identification along with subject, are predetermined character strings which is sent along with sending an e-mail specified by the identification information, instructs the mail client to process the email in accordance with the e-mail processing program, in this case the removal or download of attachments, and when receiving predetermined character strings transmitted from predetermined character strings, storing, in accordance with an e-mail processing program by said mail client in a nonvolatile memory, an e-mail transmitted from said mail server.)

Therefore it would have been an obvious to one of an ordinary skill in art, having the teachings of Lee and Beyda in front of him at the time of invention was made, to incorporate the teachings of Beyda such that the mail attributes are received first and upon retrieval of an email by selecting the email from a document browsing program as shown by Lee, performing the processing of email in accordance with the Beyda 's system such that the email header and body and/or attachments are identified by predetermined character strings instructing for their removal or auto-download as desired.

This would have been obvious because, as Beyda puts it at col. 2, line 24-28, "What is needed is a messaging method and system that provide extensive user control for downloading attachments of emails, while eliminating the need for individual decisions and input by the user in order to download or upload a desired attachment.

Referring to claim 2,

Lee teaches an e-mail delivery method according to Claim 1, further comprising: receiving, in said mail client, an instruction to suspend delivery from said mail server of an e-mail selected from among said displayed e-mails, and sending from said mail client identification information for specifying the selected e-mail to said mail server; wherein said mail server receives identification information transmitted from said mail client, and in the next mail attribute sending step, sends mail attribute information of an e-mail whose delivery is to be suspended, the e-mail being specified by the identification information. (Fig. 7, Element New Messages", Note: The messages whose delivery is not requested is identified as New Message.)

Referring to claim 3,

Lee teaches an e-mail delivering method according to Claim 1,

wherein said mail server and said mail client mutually send and receive data in accordance with a hyper text transfer protocol; and said predetermined character strings are written in a header of a hyper text transfer protocol. (col. 7, line 47-55, "FIG. 7 is a screen shot of a Web page 100 showing, by way of example, the graphical user interface 101 used in the system 11 of FIG. 2. In the described embodiment, the graphical user interface 101 is generated as a HTML Web page for viewing on a browser application 40 (shown in FIG. 2). The graphical user interface 101 provides controls 102 for displaying and navigating through computer telephony messages 103 stored in the unified message store 12 (shown in FIG. 1).", Fig. 6B, element 92, Fig. 7, "Web Mail");

Referring to claim 4,

Lee teaches an e-mail delivering method according to Claim 1, wherein said mail server and said mail client mutually send and receive data in accordance with a hyper text transfer protocol; and said mail client, in the step of sending identification information, sends to said mail server identification information for specifying said selected e-mail by using a POST method of a hyper text transfer protocol. (col. 7, line 47-55, "FIG. 7 is a screen shot of a Web page 100 showing, by way of example, the graphical user interface 101 used in the system 11 of FIG. 2. In the described embodiment, the graphical user interface 101 is generated as a HTML Web page for viewing on a browser application 40 (shown in FIG. 2). The graphical user interface 101

provides controls 102 for displaying and navigating through computer telephony messages 103 stored in the unified message store 12 (shown in FIG. 1).", Fig. 6B, element 92, Fig. 7, "WebMail");

Referring to claim 5,

Lee teaches an e-mail delivering method according to Claim 1, wherein said mail server and said mail client mutually send and receive data in accordance with a hyper text transfer protocol, said mail client requests said mail server to transmit said e-mail by transmitting a request to said mail server, the request using a GET method of a hyper text transfer protocol. (col. 7, line 47-55, "FIG. 7 is a screen shot of a Web page 100 showing, by way of example, the graphical user interface 101 used in the system 11 of FIG. 2. In the described embodiment, the graphical user interface 101 is generated as a HTML Web page for viewing on a browser application 40 (shown in FIG. 2). The graphical user interface 101 provides controls 102 for displaying and navigating through computer telephony messages 103 stored in the unified message store 12 (shown in FIG. 1).", Fig. 6B, element 92, Fig. 7, "WebMail");

Lee fails to teach when said mail server sends to said mail client said predetermined character strings prior to sending an e-mail identified by said identification information.

Beyda teaches at col. 7, line 49, If step 64 is satisfied, the next step in the process is step 66, which utilizes a list of subject matter instead of file formats or senders. At step 66, the criterion is based on the subject matter of the email message. For example, if "X project" is selected by the receiving party, the attachment filter 42

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may be configured to prevent auto-downloading of attached files of email messages that are not marked as "X project" subject matter. In this configuration, if the email message is not "X project" subject matter, the process proceeds to step 60. However, if the subject matter is "X project," the email message is transmitted to the client device from the local router/server 12 with the attached file. Identical to steps 62 and 64, the list of subject matter may be reversely implemented, such that only attached files of email messages having a subject matter not contained on the list are auto-download to the client device." Note: Attachment identification along with subject, are predetermined character strings which is sent along with sending an e-mail specified by the identification information, instructs the mail client to process the email in accordance with the e-mail processing program, in this case the removal or download of attachments.)

Beyda teaches at col. 6, line23-32, "In step 52, the receiving party establishes a communication connection with the local router/server 12, employing one of the client devices 14, 16 and 18. Although any one of the client devices 14, 16 and 18 may be utilized by the receiving party, further description of the method will be described with respect to the client device 14. Also in step 52, the receiving party accesses the virtual mailbox at the local router/server 12 that has been assigned to that receiving party in order to view the email message." (when said mail server sends to said mail client said predetermined character strings prior to sending an e-mail identified by said identification information.)

Therefore it would have been an obvious to one of an ordinary skill in art, having the teachings of Lee and Beyda in front of him at the time of invention was made, to incorporate the teachings of Beyda such that the mail attributes are received first and upon retrieval of an email by selecting the email from a document browsing program as shown by Lee, performing the processing of email in accordance with the Beyda 's system such that the email header and body and/or attachments are identified by predetermined character strings instructing for their removal or auto-download as desired.

This would have been obvious because, as Beyda puts it at col. 2, line 24-28, "What is needed is a messaging method and system that provide extensive user control for downloading attachments of emails, while eliminating the need for individual decisions and input by the user in order to download or upload a desired attachment.

Referring to claim 6,

Lee teaches an e-mail delivering method according to Claim 5, wherein when sending said e-mail to said mail client, said mail server writes in a header of a hyper text transfer protocol in a predetermined order identification information for identifying an e-mail to be transmitted this time, and identification information for identifying an e-mail to be transmitted subsequently and transmits them to said mail client; and said mail client writes in a request header of a hyper text transfer protocol in a predetermined order, said two pieces of identification information written in a header of the received hyper text transfer protocol, and requests said mail server to send said e-mail to be subsequently transmitted by transmitting a request header of a hyper text transfer

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protocol to said mail server; and said mail server identifies an e-mail to be sent on the basis of said predetermined order of said two pieces of identification information in a request header of the received hyper text transfer protocol, and sends the specified e-mail to said mail client (col. 7, line 47-55, "FIG. 7 is a screen shot of a Web page 100 showing, by way of example, the graphical user interface 101 used in the system 11 of FIG. 2. In the described embodiment, the graphical user interface 101 is generated as a HTML Web page for viewing on a browser application 40 (shown in FIG. 2). The graphical user interface 101 provides controls 102 for displaying and navigating through computer telephony messages 103 stored in the unified message store 12 (shown in FIG. 1).", Fig. 6B, element 92, Fig. 7, "WebMail").

Referring to claim 7,

Claim 7 is a claim to a server for performing a mail delivering process to a mail client in accordance with the method of claim 1. Therefore claim 7 is rejected for the reasons set forth for claim 1. (please note that Lee teaches in Fig. 7, E-mail attribute information sending means as such the Mail server of Fig. 1, element 22 has the means as part of the E-Mail server, which is Fig. 6B, element 92. "an identification information reception means" is col. 5, line 33-44, "On the resource software layer 54 side, the server layer 52 exports an application programming interface called the resource software abstraction layer 55. This layer provides a set of dynamic linked libraries called service interface adapters between the server layer 52 and resource software layer 54, such as further described below with reference to FIG. 6A. Server request messages are converted into callbacks that control signal processing in heterogeneous

computer telephony devices. Similarly, the resource software layer 54 can interface with the server layer 52 and application software layer 51 through request response and event messages.", and "a character string sending means " is provided by Beyda as shown for sending attachment identification along with subject, are predetermined character strings which is sent along with sending an e-mail specified by the identification information, instructs the mail client to process the email in accordance with the e-mail processing program., in this case the removal or download of attachments.)

Referring to claim 8,

Claim 8 is a claim to a server for performing a mail delivering process to a mail client in accordance with the method of claim 3. Therefore claim 8 is rejected for the reasons set forth for claim 3.

Referring to claim 9,

Claim 9 is a claim to a mail client which receives e-mails from a mail server in accordance with the method of claim 1. Therefore claim 9 is rejected for the reasons set forth for claim 1. (Fig. 7 of Lee shows the means as inherent parts of the email receiving device.)

Referring to claim 10,

Claim 10 is a claim to a mail client which receives e-mails from a mail server in accordance with the method of claim 4. Therefore claim 10 is rejected for the reasons set forth for claim 4.

Referring to claim 11,

Claim 11 is a claim to a mail client which receives e-mails from a mail server in accordance with the method of claim 5. Therefore claim 11 is rejected for the reasons set forth for claim 5.

Conclusion

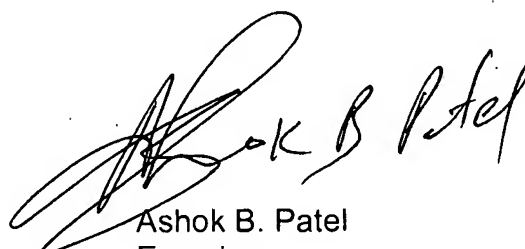
Examiner's note: Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings of the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant in preparing responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the Examiner.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ashok B. Patel whose telephone number is (571) 272-3972. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 am-4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nathan A. Flynn can be reached on (571) 272-1915. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Ashok B. Patel
Examiner
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